

And there's no doubt in my mind that the good people of El Paso, Texas, and those who live at Fort Bliss are going to do exactly that. I know El Paso. I know the hearts and souls of the citizens who live here. I know full well the love and compassion that exists throughout the neighborhoods in this great city in this part of the State.

Today I had the honor of meeting Rosario Piedra. She brought her whole family. [Laughter] She came out to see this magnificent Air Force One. She was there because Rosario is the kind of person I'm talking about. She takes her obligation as a U.S. citizen very seriously. She knows there's something more to life than just serving yourself. She's in charge of Girl Scout troops, teaching young girls values that will stay with them for the rest of their life. She works after-school programs to help children that need a little extra help. It is this kind of citizen that makes our country unique and different.

I want to share with you this thought, that the most meaningful event of September the 11th, in many ways, was Flight 93. I want you all to remember what took place. On that flight were people who had been told on their telephones that Washington and New York was under attack. They knew their plane had been hijacked. They got on the plane, and they told their loved ones they loved them. They said a prayer. They said, "Let's roll," and they served something greater than themselves. They served humanity. It is that spirit of sacrifice, it is that spirit of serving something greater than yourself that is alive and well and strong in our great land.

And as you love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself, remember that you represent that spirit; you represent the best of our country; and you join us all in standing squarely in the face of evildoers. This great country is the finest country on the face of the Earth, and we're going to show the world exactly that.

And so I want to thank you all. Laura and I love El Paso. We love our friends. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:33 a.m. at El Paso International Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Milton Green, whose wife, Barbara, was killed in the March 17 terrorist attack at the

Protestant International Church in Islamabad, Pakistan, and their son, Zachary, who survived the attack; and Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Requests

March 21, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider expeditiously the enclosed requests, totaling \$27.1 billion, for emergency FY 2002 supplemental appropriations. The requests provide for emergency expenses to support the war on terrorism, homeland security, and economic revitalization activities as the Nation continues to recover and rebuild following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

I hereby designate specific requests contained in the accompanying material as emergency requirements pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended. By category, these emergency requests total:

- Defense: \$14.0 billion
- International: \$1.6 billion
- Homeland Security: \$3.3 billion (excludes \$1.9 billion in a contingent appropriation for the Department of Transportation)
- Assistance to New York: \$5.5 billion

The emergency funding requests include a total of \$2.7 billion in budget authority that would be made available contingent upon my transmittal of later budget requests to the Congress designating the specific amounts requested as an emergency requirement. This contingent budget authority includes \$1.9 billion allocated to the Department of Transportation for the Transportation Security Administration and \$750.0 million allocated to the Department of Labor for economic recovery and assistance to dislocated workers.

This transmittal also contains \$240.0 million in non-emergency requests that are fully offset by proposed reductions.

All of the requests in this transmittal are for the purpose of fulfilling a known and urgent FY 2002 requirement and are unable to reasonably be met through the use of existing agency funds.

The details of these requests are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

Interview With TCS

March 20, 2002

El Salvador-U.S. Relations

Q. Ten years after the peace agreement in El Salvador, how do you evaluate the current relationship between the U.S. and my country?

The President. *Muy fuerte.* I've got, first of all, a good personal relationship with *El Presidente de su país*. He's a very good man. He's a young, strong leader, and I'm impressed by him. And everybody in America who's met him is impressed by him.

Secondly, I believe we've got some great opportunities. There's a lot of people from your country living here in America, and so we get a better sense of your country from them—hard-working, good people. Secondly, obviously we've had a chance to cooperate during some of the unbelievable natural disasters that affected El Salvador—Hurricane Mitch. And our country was very glad to help. We—sorry it happened, but then it happened, glad to help.

And I'm going to go down and talk about trade and the ability for us to work together to put together a free trade agreement with Central American nations. I think it's a great opportunity. I'm really looking forward to the trip. I can't wait to go to El Salvador. It's going to be—it's an honor to go.

Central American-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

Q. Mr. President, do you consider that the free trade agreement between the U.S. and the Central American countries will indeed benefit the poorest people in our region?

The President. *Por cierto, por cierto.* That's why I'm so anxious to do so. The best way to develop jobs, the best way to develop hope and opportunity is through trade. A country which trades with the United States, for example, or any other country, a vibrant marketplace is going to get 8 times more benefit from that trade than they would through any foreign aid program.

Now, we're going to be generous with our foreign aid, and we'll help, but trade is really the best chance to help the poor. And that's what I'm interested in doing. I know that when somebody starts getting jobs available, there's better training. It will lead to better education; it will lead to better health care. And so we're anxious to promote prosperity, and the best way to do that is through a trade agreement.

Temporary Protected Status

Q. Deeply inside you, Mr. President, have you made a decision over the future of 250,000 Salvadorans currently under TPS?

The President. TPS? No, but I want—first of all, I was a strong supporter of TPS the last time it came up. The TPS authorization—or the renewal—won't come up until *Septiembre*. So this summer I, of course, will look at it. I haven't made up my mind yet, but I will tell you, the last time I was a strong supporter. I thought it was the right thing to do. And one might guess, if I thought it was the right thing to do last time—but I will make up my mind this summer.

War on Terrorism

Q. Does El Salvador have an important role to play in the global war against terrorism?

The President. Oh, of course, of course. And here it is: Al Qaida killers are trying to find places where they can move assets, train, move money. They're looking for weak spots. They found one in Afghanistan, and we're still bringing them to justice. Any country that appears weak or is welcoming to a terrorist organization is one where they're likely to go. And what El Salvador can do is continue to be strong and say, "We're not going to tolerate terrorism. We're not going to let